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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):

J. TANAKA, et al

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Group:

1763

Examiner:

P. Hassanzadeh

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 24, 2004

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application, as listed below and as set forth on the following pages:

Amendment of the Specification;

Amendment of the Claims; and

Remarks are included following the amendments.